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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
CENTRAL DISTRICT

BRANDON STEVENSON,

Plaintiff,

2:24-cv-11112-ODW(RAOx)

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

Action Filed: 1/02/2025

LAMONT NASH, SUZANNE PORTILLO AND DOES 1 THROUGH 10, INCLUSIVE,

Defendants.

1. A. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection from public disclosure and from use for any purpose other than prosecuting this litigation may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the Court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this Order does not confer blanket protections on all disclosures or responses to discovery and that the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends

1 only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment
2 under the applicable legal principles. The parties further acknowledge, as set forth
3 in Section 12.3, below, that this Stipulated Protective Order does not entitle them to
4 file confidential information under seal; Civil Local Rule 79-5 sets forth the
5 procedures that must be followed and the standards that will be applied when a
6 party seeks permission from the court to file material under seal.

7 **B. GOOD CAUSE STATEMENT**

8 Defendant State of California, acting by and through the California Highway
9 Patrol (CHP) Officers Lamont Nash and Suzanne Portillo, may be producing
10 documents that contain information that is generally unavailable to the public
11 and/or privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure under state or federal
12 statutes, court rules, case decisions, or common law. CHP may be producing
13 documents that contain information concerning its confidential internal policies,
14 which documents are generally unavailable to the public. The disclosure of this
15 information may jeopardize the security of defendants' operations and jeopardize
16 the safety of peace officers. Defendants may also be producing documents that
17 contain personal and confidential information regarding individuals which
18 information is generally unavailable to the public, including peace officer personnel
19 records and records related to third parties. The disclosure of this information to the
20 public may violate those individuals' privacy rights. Defendants may also be
21 producing video, audio and still photo images related to the incident at issue in this
22 case, which are generally unavailable to the public. In addition, defendants may be
23 producing investigation reports which are generally unavailable to the public, the
24 disclosure of which could violate individuals' privacy rights and jeopardize the
25 safety of officers. Also, documents to be produced pursuant to subpoena will likely
26 include autopsy photographs, which are prohibited from dissemination pursuant to
27 California Code of Civil Procedure section 129.

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1 Accordingly, to expedite the flow of information, to facilitate the prompt
2 resolution of disputes over confidentiality of discovery materials, to adequately
3 protect information the parties are entitled to keep confidential, to ensure that the
4 parties are permitted reasonable necessary uses of such material in preparation for
5 and in the conduct of trial, to address their handling at the end of the litigation, and
6 serve the ends of justice, a protective order for such information is justified in this
7 matter. It is the intent of the parties that information will not be designated as
8 confidential for tactical reasons and that nothing be so designated without a good
9 faith belief that it has been maintained in a confidential, non-public manner, and
10 there is good cause why it should not be part of the public record of this case.

11 **2. DEFINITIONS**

12 **2.1 Action**: *Brandon Stevenson, v. Lamont Nash, Suzanne Portillo*, United
13 States District Court for the Central District of California case number 2:24-cv-
14 11112-ODW(RAOx).

15 **2.2 Challenging Party**: a Party or Non-Party that challenges the designation
16 of information or items under this Order.

17 **2.3 “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items**: information (regardless of
18 how it is generated, stored or maintained) or tangible things that qualify for
19 protection under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(c), and as specified above in
20 the Good Cause Statement.

21 **2.4 Counsel**: Outside Counsel of Record and House Counsel (as well as their
22 support staff).

23 **2.5 Designating Party**: a Party or Non-Party that designates information or
24 items that it produces in disclosures or in responses to discovery as
25 “CONFIDENTIAL.”

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1 2.6 **Disclosure or Discovery Material**: all items or information, regardless of
2 the medium or manner in which it is generated, stored, or maintained (including,
3 among other things, testimony, transcripts, and tangible things), that are produced
4 or generated in disclosures or responses to discovery in this matter.

5 2.7 **Expert**: a person with specialized knowledge or experience in a matter
6 pertinent to the litigation who has been retained by a Party or its counsel to serve as
7 an expert witness or as a consultant in this Action.

8 2.8 **House Counsel**: attorneys who are employees of a party to this Action.
9 House Counsel does not include Outside Counsel of Record or any other outside
10 counsel.

11 2.9 **Non-Party**: any natural person, partnership, corporation, association, or
12 other legal entity not named as a Party to this action.

13 2.10 **Outside Counsel of Record**: attorneys who are not employees of a party
14 to this Action but are retained to represent or advise a party to this Action and have
15 appeared in this Action on behalf of that party or are affiliated with a law firm
16 which has appeared on behalf of that party and includes support staff.

17 2.11 **Party**: any party to this Action, including all of its officers, directors,
18 employees, consultants, retained experts, and Outside Counsel of Record (and their
19 support staffs).

20 2.12 **Producing Party**: A Party or Non-Party that produces Disclosure or
21 Discovery Material in this Action.

22 2.13 **Professional Vendors**: persons or entities that provide litigation support
23 services (e.g., photocopying, videotaping, translating, preparing exhibits or
24 demonstrations, and organizing, storing, or retrieving data in any form or medium)
25 and their employees and subcontractors.

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1 2.14 Protected Material: any Disclosure or Discovery Material that is
2 designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.”

3 2.15 Receiving Party: A Party that receives Disclosure or Discovery Material
4 from a Producing Party.

5 3. SCOPE

6 The protections conferred by this Stipulation and Order cover not only
7 Protected Material (as defined above), but also (1) any information copied or
8 extracted from Protected Material; (2) all copies, excerpts, summaries, or
9 compilations of Protected Material; and (3) any testimony, conversations, or
10 presentations by Parties or their Counsel that might reveal Protected Material.

11 Any use of Protected Material at trial shall be governed by the orders of the
12 trial judge. This Order does not govern the use of Protected Material at trial.

13 4. DURATION

14 Even after final disposition of this litigation, the confidentiality obligations
15 imposed by this Order shall remain in effect until a Designating Party agrees
16 otherwise in writing or a court order otherwise directs. Final disposition shall be
17 deemed to be the later of (1) dismissal of all claims and defenses in this Action,
18 with or without prejudice; and (2) final judgment herein after the completion and
19 exhaustion of all appeals, rehearings, remands, trials, or reviews of this Action,
20 including the time limits for filing any motions or applications for extension of time
21 pursuant to applicable law.

22 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

23 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection.

24 Each Party or Non-Party that designates information or items for protection
25 under this Order must take care to limit any such designation to specific material
26 that qualifies under the appropriate standards. The Designating Party must
27 designate for protection only those parts of material, documents, items, or oral or
28 written communications that qualify so that other portions of the material,

1 documents items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not
2 swept unjustifiably within the ambit of this Order.

3 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations
4 that are shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper
5 purpose (e.g., to unnecessarily encumber the case development process or to
6 impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other parties) may expose the
7 Designating Party to sanctions.

8 If it comes to a Designating Party's attention that information or items that it
9 designated for protection do not qualify for protection, that Designating Party must
10 promptly notify all other Parties that it is withdrawing the inapplicable designation.

11 **5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations**. Except as otherwise provided in this
12 Order (see, e.g., second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise
13 stipulated or ordered, Disclosure or Discovery Material that qualifies for protection
14 under this Order must be clearly so designated before the material is disclosed or
15 produced.

16 Designation in conformity with this Order requires:

17 (a) for information in documentary form (e.g., paper or electronic documents,
18 but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings), that
19 the Producing Party affix at a minimum, the legend "CONFIDENTIAL"
20 (hereinafter "CONFIDENTIAL legend"), to each page that contains protected
21 material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for
22 protection, the Producing Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s)
23 (e.g., by making appropriate markings in the margins).

24 A Party or Non-Party that makes original documents available for inspection
25 need not designate them for protection until after the inspecting Party has indicated
26 which documents it would like copied and produced. During the inspection and
27 before the designation, all of the material made available for inspection shall be
28 deemed "CONFIDENTIAL." After the inspecting Party has identified the

1 documents, it wants copied and produced, the Producing Party must determine
2 which documents, or portions thereof, qualify for protection under this Order. Then,
3 before producing the specified documents, the Producing Party must affix the
4 “CONFIDENTIAL legend” to each page that contains Protected Material. If only a
5 portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection, the Producing
6 Party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (e.g., by making
7 appropriate markings in the margins).

8 (b) for testimony given in depositions, that the Designating Party identify the
9 Disclosure or Discovery Material on the record, before the close of the deposition
10 all protected testimony.

11 (c) for information produced in some form other than documentary and for
12 any other tangible items, that the Producing Party affix in a prominent place on the
13 exterior of the container or containers in which the information is stored the legend
14 “CONFIDENTIAL.” If only a portion or portions of the information warrants
15 protection, the Producing Party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the
16 protected portion(s).

17 5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent
18 failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive
19 the Designating Party’s right to secure protection under this Order for such
20 material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the Receiving Party must make
21 reasonable efforts to assure that the material is treated in accordance with the
22 provisions of this Order.

23 6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

24 6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any Party or Non-Party may challenge a
25 designation of confidentiality at any time that is consistent with the Court’s
26 Scheduling Order.

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1 6.2 Meet and Confer. The Challenging Party shall initiate the dispute
2 resolution process under Local Rule 37.1 et seq.

3 6.3 The burden of persuasion in any such challenge proceeding shall be on
4 the Designating Party. Frivolous challenges, and those made for an improper
5 purpose (e.g., to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on other
6 parties) may expose the Challenging Party to sanctions. Unless the Designating
7 Party has waived or withdrawn the confidentiality designation, all parties shall
8 continue to afford the material in question the level of protection to which it is
9 entitled under the Producing Party's designation until the Court rules on the
10 challenge.

11 7. ACCESS TO AND USE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

12 7.1 Basic Principles. A Receiving Party may use Protected Material that is
13 disclosed or produced by another Party or by a Non-Party in connection with this
14 Action only for prosecuting, defending, or attempting to settle this Action. Such
15 Protected Material may be disclosed only to the categories of persons and under the
16 conditions described in this Order. When the Action has been terminated, a
17 Receiving Party must comply with the provisions of section 13 below (FINAL
18 DISPOSITION).

19 Protected Material must be stored and maintained by a Receiving Party at a
20 location and in a secure manner that ensures that access is limited to the persons
21 authorized under this Order.

22 7.2 Disclosure of “CONFIDENTIAL” Information or Items. Unless
23 otherwise ordered by the court or permitted in writing by the Designating Party, a
24 Receiving Party may disclose any information or item designated
25 “CONFIDENTIAL” only to:

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(a) the Receiving Party's Outside Counsel of Record in this Action, as well as employees of said Outside Counsel of Record to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this Action;

(b) the officers, directors, and employees (including House Counsel) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action;

(c) Experts (as defined in this Order) of the Receiving Party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(d) the court and its personnel;

(e) court reporters and their staff;

(f) professional jury or trial consultants, mock jurors, and Professional

Vendors to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this Action and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

(g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information;

(h) during their depositions, witnesses, and attorneys for witnesses, in the Action to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary provided: (1) the deposing party requests that the witness sign the form attached as Exhibit A hereto; and (2) they will not be permitted to keep any confidential information unless they sign the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the Designating Party or ordered by the court. Pages of transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal Protected Material may be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted under this Stipulated Protective Order; and

(i) any mediator or settlement officer, and their supporting personnel, mutually agreed upon by any of the parties engaged in settlement discussions.

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1 8. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN
2 OTHER LITIGATION

3 If a Party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation
4 that compels disclosure of any information or items designated in this Action as
5 “CONFIDENTIAL,” that Party must:

6 (a) promptly notify in writing the Designating Party. Such notification
7 shall include a copy of the subpoena or court order;

8 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order
9 to issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the
10 subpoena or order is subject to this Protective Order. Such notification shall include
11 a copy of this Stipulated Protective Order; and

12 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be
13 pursued by the Designating Party whose Protected Material may be affected.

14 If the Designating Party timely seeks a protective order, the Party served with
15 the subpoena or court order shall not produce any information designated in this
16 action as “CONFIDENTIAL” before a determination by the court from which the
17 subpoena or order issued, unless the Party has obtained the Designating Party’s
18 permission. The Designating Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking
19 protection in that court of its confidential material and nothing in these provisions
20 should be construed as authorizing or encouraging a Receiving Party in this Action
21 to disobey a lawful directive from another court.

22 9. A NON-PARTY’S PROTECTED MATERIAL SOUGHT TO BE PRODUCED
23 IN THIS LITIGATION

24 (a) The terms of this Order are applicable to information produced by a Non-
25 Party in this Action and designated as “CONFIDENTIAL.” Such information
26 produced by Non-Parties in connection with this litigation is protected by the
27 remedies and relief provided by this Order. Nothing in these provisions should be
28 construed as prohibiting a Non-Party from seeking additional protections.

(b) In the event that a Party is required, by a valid discovery request, to produce a Non-Party's confidential information in its possession, and the Party is subject to an agreement with the Non-Party not to produce the Non-Party's confidential information, then the Party shall:

(1) promptly notify in writing the Requesting Party and the Non-Party that some or all of the information requested is subject to a confidentiality agreement with a Non-Party;

(2) promptly provide the Non-Party with a copy of the Stipulated Protective Order in this Action, the relevant discovery request(s), and a reasonably specific description of the information requested; and

(3) make the information requested available for inspection by the Non-Party, if requested.

(c) If the Non-Party fails to seek a protective order from this court within 14 days of receiving the notice and accompanying information, the Receiving Party may produce the Non-Party's confidential information responsive to the discovery request. If the Non-Party timely seeks a protective order, the Receiving Party shall not produce any information in its possession or control that is subject to the confidentiality agreement with the Non-Party before a determination by the court. Absent a court order to the contrary, the Non-Party shall bear the burden and expense of seeking protection in this court of its Protected Material.

10. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

If a Receiving Party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed Protected Material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this Stipulated Protective Order, the Receiving Party must immediately (a) notify in writing the Designating Party of the unauthorized disclosures, (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the Protected Material, (c) inform the person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this Order, and (d) request such person or persons to execute the "Acknowledgment

1 and Agreement to Be Bound" that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

2 11. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE
3 PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 When a Producing Party gives notice to Receiving Parties that certain
5 inadvertently produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other
6 protection, the obligations of the Receiving Parties are those set forth in Federal
7 Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision is not intended to modify
8 whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order that provides for
9 production without prior privilege review. Pursuant to Federal Rule of Evidence
10 502(d) and (e), insofar as the parties reach an agreement on the effect of disclosure
11 of a communication or information covered by the attorney-client privilege or work
12 product protection, the parties may incorporate their agreement in the stipulated
13 protective order submitted to the court.

14 12. MISCELLANEOUS

15 12.1 Right to Further Relief. Nothing in this Order abridges the right of any
16 person to seek its modification by the Court in the future.

17 12.2 Right to Assert Other Objections. By stipulating to the entry of this
18 Protective Order no Party waives any right it otherwise would have to object to
19 disclosing or producing any information or item on any ground not addressed in
20 this Stipulated Protective Order. Similarly, no Party waives any right to object on
21 any ground to use in evidence of any of the material covered by this Protective
22 Order.

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1 12.3 Filing Protected Material. A Party that seeks to file under seal any
2 Protected Material must comply with Civil Local Rule 79-5. Protected Material
3 may only be filed under seal pursuant to a court order authorizing the sealing of the
4 specific Protected Material at issue. If a Party's request to file Protected Material
5 under seal is denied by the court, then the Receiving Party may file the information
6 in the public record unless otherwise instructed by the court.

7 13. FINAL DISPOSITION

8 After the final disposition of this Action, as defined in paragraph 4, within 60
9 days of a written request by the Designating Party, each Receiving Party must
10 return all Protected Material to the Producing Party or destroy such material. As
11 used in this subdivision, "all Protected Material" includes all copies, abstracts,
12 compilations, summaries, and any other format reproducing or capturing any of the
13 Protected Material. Whether the Protected Material is returned or destroyed, the
14 Receiving Party must submit a written certification to the Producing Party (and, if
15 not the same person or entity, to the Designating Party) by the 60 day deadline that
16 (1) identifies (by category, where appropriate) all the Protected Material that was
17 returned or destroyed and (2) affirms that the Receiving Party has not retained any
18 copies, abstracts, compilations, summaries or any other format reproducing or
19 capturing any of the Protected Material. Notwithstanding this provision, Counsel
20 are entitled to retain an archival copy of all pleadings, motion papers, trial,
21 deposition, and hearing transcripts, legal memoranda, correspondence, deposition
22 and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert
23 work product, even if such materials contain Protected Material. Any such archival
24 copies that contain or constitute Protected Material remain subject to this Protective
25 Order as set forth in Section 4 (DURATION).

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1 14. VIOLATION OF ORDER

2 Any violation of this Order may be punished by any and all appropriate
3 measures including, without limitation, contempt proceedings and/or monetary
4 sanctions.

5 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.

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7 Dated: July 24, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

8 ROB BONTA
9 Attorney General of California
10 DONNA DEAN
Supervising Deputy Attorney General

11 s/ David Klehm
12 DAVID KLEHM
13 Deputy Attorney General
*Attorneys for Defendants, Lamont
Nash and Suzanne Portillo*

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15 Dated: July 24, 2025
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LAW OFFICES OF DALE K. GALIPO

s/ HANG LE
DALE K. GALIPO
HANG LE
*Attorneys for Plaintiff
Brandon Stevenson*

FOR GOOD CAUSE SHOWN, IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated: 7/25/2025

Rozella A. Oliver

The Honorable Rozella A. Oliver
United States Magistrate Judge

EXHIBIT A

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT TO BE BOUND

I, _____ [print or type full name], of _____ [print or type full address],
hereunder, under penalty of perjury that I have read in its entirety and understand the
Stipulated Protective Order that was issued by the United States District Court for the
Central District of California on _____ [date] in the case of *Brandon*
Johnson., v. Lamont Nash, Suzanne Portillo., United States District Court for the
Central District of California case number 2:24-cv-11112-ODW(RAOx). I agree to
comply with and to be bound by all the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order.
I understand and acknowledge that failure to so comply could expose me to
sanctions and punishment in the nature of contempt. I solemnly promise that I will
not disclose in any manner any information or item that is subject to this Stipulated
Protective Order to any person or entity except in strict compliance with the
provisions of this Order.

I further agree to submit to the jurisdiction of the United States District Court for the Central District of California for the purpose of enforcing the terms of this Stipulated Protective Order, even if such enforcement proceedings occur after termination of this action. I hereby appoint _____ [print or type full name] of _____ [print or type full address and telephone number] as my California agent for service of process in connection with this action or any proceedings related to enforcement of this Stipulated Protective Order.

Date: _____

[signature]

[City and State where sworn]